

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 15 (new): A method of operation to bring parallel fibres from different supply points and with unequal exit force to a required substantially equal tension, comprising the steps of:

a) transporting the parallel fibres over a first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements, wherein a peripheral velocity of the first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements is greater than a velocity of the parallel fibres whereby at the end of step a) the parallel fibres have a tension that is about zero;

b) transporting the parallel fibres over a first roller, wherein the parallel fibres are transported without any substantial slippage; and

c) if a greater tension is required, transporting the parallel fibres over a second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements, wherein a peripheral velocity of the second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements is less than the velocity of the parallel fibres whereby at an end of step c) a required collective tension is achieved.

Claim 16 (new): The method of operation according to claim 15, wherein a second roller is placed opposite the first roller and the parallel fibres are transported between the second roller and the first roller.

Claim 17 (new): The method of operation according to claim 16, wherein the first roller and the second roller are pressed against each other with an adjustable force.

Claim 18 (new): The method of operation according to claim 15, wherein the first roller is motorized.

Claim 19 (new): The method of operation according to claim 15, wherein an endless belt is placed against the first roller, the endless belt being situated to allow the endless belt to encircle a part of the circumference of the first roller.

Claim 20 (new): The method of operation according to claim 19, wherein the first roller and the endless belt are motorized.

Claim 21 (new): The method of operation according to claim 15, wherein the parallel fibres are connected to each other.

Claim 22 (new): A device to bring parallel fibres from different supply points and with unequal exit force to a required substantially equal tension, comprising:

- a) a first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements, wherein the parallel fibres are transported over the first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements and the first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements has a peripheral velocity that is greater than a velocity of the parallel fibres, whereby a tension of the parallel fibres is about zero;
- b) a roller, wherein the parallel fibres are transported over the roller without any substantial slippage; and
- c) a second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements, wherein the parallel fibres are transported over the second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements and the second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements has a peripheral velocity that is less than the velocity of the parallel fibres, whereby the tension of the parallel fibres reaches a required collective tension.

Claim 23 (new): The device according to claim 22, wherein the first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements are placed in a line on a first frame part and a second frame part, allowing the first frame part and the second frame part to mesh with each other whereby a partial encirclement by the parallel fibres of a surface of the first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements can be adjusted.

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Claim 24 (new): The device according to claim 22, wherein the roller is motorized and an endless belt is driven by two driving rollers, whereby the roller and the endless belt can move towards each other such that a partial encirclement by the endless belt of a surface of the roller can be regulated.

Claim 25 (new): The device according to claim 22, wherein a movable unit is placed at an approximate right angle to the parallel fibres between the first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements and the roller, wherein the movable unit is equipped with a force absorber.

Claim 26 (new): The device according to claim 22, wherein the second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements are placed in a line on a first frame part and a second frame part, allowing the first frame part and the second frame part to mesh with each other whereby a partial encirclement by the parallel fibres of a surface of the second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements can be adjusted.

Claim 27 (new): The device according to claim 26, wherein a movable element is placed at an approximate right angle to the parallel fibres immediately after the second set of one or more stationary or motorized cylindrical rotating elements and the first frame part and second frame part, wherein the movable unit is equipped with a force absorber.

Claim 28 (new): The method of operation according to claim 16, wherein the parallel fibres are threads, yarns, or any combination thereof.

Claim 29 (new): The device according to claim 22, wherein the parallel fibres are threads, yarns, or any combination thereof.

Claim 30 (new): The method of operation according to claim 16, wherein the first roller and the second roller are motorized.

Claim 31 (new): A method of operation to bring parallel fibres from different supply points and with unequal exit force to a required substantially equal tension, comprising the steps of:

- a) transporting the parallel fibres over a first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements, wherein a peripheral velocity of the first set of one or more motorized cylindrical rotating elements is greater than a velocity of the parallel fibres whereby at the end of step a) the parallel fibres have a tension that is about zero;
- b) transporting the parallel fibres over a first roller, wherein the parallel fibres are transported without any substantial slippage.